Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150151

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:MWILLIAMSON:EK APPROVED BY IO:RREIS

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R 010800Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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UNCLAS STATE 150151

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION HICOMTERPACIS FROM STATE JUNE 25

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 150151

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT: SENATOR FONG'S STATEMENT ON MARIANAS PLEBISCITE

- VOTE

FOR STATUS LNO AND MNS

IN STATEMENT ON SENATE FLOOR JUNE 24 SENATOR HIRAM FONG (R-HAWAII) REVIEWED THE STATISTICS IN THE FINAL REPORT OF PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER ERWIN CANHAM AND NOTED THAT 78.8 PER CENT OF VALID VOTES CAST APPROVED THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT AND THAT MORE THAN 93 PER CENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS HAD CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

SENATOR FONG SAID:

QUOTE: THESE ARE HIGHLY GRATIFYING FIGURES. THEY DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WHOLEHEARTEDLY PARTICIPATED IN THE PLEBISCITE AND FREELY CHOSE A CLOSE POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE FACT THAT THE BALLOTING WAS OBSERVED BY THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 150151

AND FOLLOWED A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ADDS

MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

I CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR STRONG VOTE. IT CONFIRMS THE SENTIMENT I FOUND IN SAIPAN DURING MY VISIT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST FALL. I EXTEND MY WARMEST ALOHA TO THE MARIANAS PEOPLE, WHO HAVE OPTED SO STRONGLY FOR CLOSER TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND FOR AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. END QUOTE.

SENATOR FONG INSERTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD THE TEXTS OF MESSAGES SENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS BY THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR HATHAWAY, AND AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: CODELS, SPEECHES, REFERENDUMS, DEPENDENCY GOVERNMENT Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Camment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975STATE150151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MWILLIAMSON:EK

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D750221-0466

From: STATE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507111/aaaaaocn.tel Line Count: 80

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ORIGIN IO Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ShawDG

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 03 MAR 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SENATOR FONG'S STATEMENT ON MARIANAS PLEBISCITE - VOTE TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, TQ, US, (FONG, HIRAM)
To: HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006